

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

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SUNDAY.....MAY 31, 1885.

Discontinued.

In a recent interview with a New York Herald reporter, Mr. BLAIR, the Attorney-General of Virginia, upon whom the State has relied to protect her interests in the coupon suits, testified as follows:

"What will be the effect of the coupon decisions on the revenues of the State?" asked your correspondent.

"The effect must be," replied Mr. Blair, "to turn loose on the State all of her tax-revenue, self-executing contracts, and thus prevent taxes being paid for money into the State Treasury. The large and even small tax-payers will use the coupons in payment of these taxes if they can."

"From a political standpoint what will be the effect of those decisions in Virginia?"

"They condemn the Democratic party to inevitable defeat in November."

Of course it will never do to entrust the conduct of any case arising under the Democratic legislation of 1884 to Mr. BLAIR, who in the same interview quotes from Mr. ROYALL, the bondholders' attorney, and endorses him as follows:

"This shows conclusively that the Democratic legislation of last year is the cause of all our present debt troubles."

Mr. BLAIR thus makes haste to denounce the Democratic laws of 1884, as General MAHONEY did in his recent letter to Senator MILLER, of New York. The Democrats are not at all afraid to go into the full campaign on their record of 1884. The results of the elections of Thursday last constitute a straw, yet it is a straw which shows which way the wind blows.

What, in Mr. BLAIR'S opinion, has become of Coupon-Killer No. 1? How is it that the law is no longer in force? Is that law any less constitutional than it was two years ago? Will he give it as his opinion as a lawyer that the act of January 14, 1882, adjudged by the Supreme Court of the United States, in *Antoni vs. Greenhow*, to be a valid and constitutional law, has become invalid and unconstitutional by reason of the passage of the laws of February and March, 1884?

Moore vs. Greenhow.

We ought to have said yesterday that the petition for a mandamus in such a case as that of *Moore vs. Greenhow* ought to be presented either in a hustings court or a county court. It was not material to the issue that we named only the latter court, since the point we were endeavoring to make good was not in the least degree affected by the omission, that point being that the petition in the case of *Moore vs. Greenhow* ought not to have been presented to the judge of the Circuit Court.

Read the act of January 14, 1882, and then read the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of *Moore vs. Greenhow*, and see for yourself what the remedy is to which the Supreme Court remitted MOORE. According to Mr. BLAIR, that court has decided to turn loose on the State all her tax-receivable coupons; but according to the opinion of the Supreme Court itself that court has decided that the act of January 14, 1882, affords MOORE an adequate remedy, and therefore he was "remitted" to his said remedy.

Will anybody presume to say that the Supreme Court remitted MOORE to a remedy under an unconstitutional law? Of course no one will hazard such an opinion. It is an impossibility—an unthinkable proposition. As well speak of a square triangle as to charge the highest court in the land with telling a suitor that he had an adequate remedy in an unconstitutional and invalid act of Assembly.

What, then, is the remedy? Either that afforded by the 4th section of the act of January 14, 1882, as cited by us yesterday, or that afforded by the 3d section. It matters not which. Both are in full force, whatever Mr. BLAIR may say.

WHAT WE NEED IN A CANDIDATE.—The *Stanton Indicator* says: "It is not hard to say what the people of Virginia want. Every man who goes to the Democratic Convention will, if he has any perception at all, know what nine out of ten of his neighbors want. He will know that they want a candidate whose record on the acceptance and enforcement of the Riddleberger bill is without a flaw and who is known to be in earnest in enforcing the sovereignty of Virginia against those who seek to impair its power. He knows, too, that they want a candidate who favors national aid to do that which Virginia has tried, and poorly succeeded in doing—educate the children of the poor—a candidate who favors and has always favored the Blair bill. On this subject of schools the Democratic voters of Virginia are as sensitive as the Republicans voters. They have shown it more decidedly than their opponents, for they turned down their own party and put the opposition in on the mere promise that the other party would do better by the schools. A candidate's speech against the Blair bill reproduced in this fall would imperil, if not defeat,

the whole ticket, for the people would set down that party as a fraud which, pretending to know the men it recommended to them, should prevent even one who was opposed to the platform it adopted."

We do not know that any one of the gentlemen whose names are prominent in connection with the Democratic nomination for Governor has made a speech anywhere or at any time against the BLAIR bill; but the extract quoted above is another argument in favor of the policy of making all the nominating speeches on the 20th of July and then adjourning the Convention to the next day.

Education in the South.

General EATON, head of the Bureau of Education in Washington, in a recent letter to Hon. J. L. M. CURRY, gives the following encouraging figures. They are for all the southern States, including the District of Columbia.

We quote them. Remember they are official:

Total white-school population for 1884.....4,216,976
Total white-school population for 1882.....4,046,956
Increase.....170,020

Total white enrollment for 1884.....2,546,448
Total white enrollment for 1882.....2,349,263
Increase.....197,185

The figures for the colored schools are as follows:

Total colored-school population for 1884.....2,038,926
Total colored-school population for 1882.....1,944,572
Increase.....94,354

Total colored enrollment for 1884.....1,092,313
Total colored enrollment for 1882.....992,082
Increase.....100,231

The total expenditure for both races in these same southern States and the District of Columbia for 1884 was \$17,053,467. The expenditure for the same States for the year 1882 was \$14,820,972, showing an increase of \$2,232,495.

We wish to call attention to the increase of over two millions of dollars appropriated to the public schools. None of this increase, we regret to have to say, was in Richmond.

We ask the northern press to notice the above figures. Of the seventeen millions of dollars paid to public schools, it is likely that not less than fifteen millions came out of the pockets of the white people.

Indian Inspectors.

It is asserted on the highest authority—we know the authority is the highest because a western Republican newspaper says it is—that the revolt among the New Mexico Indians is due to their disappointment and disgust at receiving from the new Administration a "half-headed inspector." No wonder the New Mexico Indians have left their reservation and started on the war-path. The gentle savage has some rights, and the sooner the Administration learns the fact the better it will be. It is a gross outrage to send to the Indians inspectors upon whom they can get no grip. How on earth, we would like to know, does the Administration expect the Indian to keep in subjection an inspector that cannot be scalped. Here is a place in which Mr. CLEVELAND can institute reform that will prove very satisfactory not only to the Indians, but to a large number of pale faces. Here he has an opportunity to show that when the good of the public service demands it he can rise superior to party considerations. Let him see that all Indian inspectors are Republicans, with full and tempting shocks of hair. Mr. CLEVELAND owes this much to the Indians, and this much to his pledge to get rid of offensive partisans.

GROWING ABOUT SILVER.—Well, here is one Republican paper, the *Post*, direct from the seat of the University of West Virginia, talking to its Republican associates as follows:

"So long as the congressmen do what they know to be for the good of the country, and the people, we expect to hear such growls as the above from the rich capitalists, monopolists, and money sharks, and their satellites in the 'money centres' of the country. Let Congress abolish the silver certificates, and then the 'daddy dollars' will go out among the people, where they belong, and we will have no trouble with the 'overloading of the vaults of the national Treasury.'"

That suggestion doesn't strike us as a very good one. Certificates are more convenient than silver. Nevertheless, the *Post* is no doubt right as to what would result from the discontinuance of the issue of silver certificates.

The latest decision of the Federal courts in the Virginia coupon case affords additional reasons why the Legislature, when it shall meet next fall, shall try to affect some satisfactory compromise with those who have invested their money in Virginia coupon securities.—*Alexandria Gazette*.

The compromise which the people of Virginia are willing to make with the creditors is embodied in the Riddleberger bill. *The Richmond Dispatch* last week, under the heading "What we need in a candidate," said that the Blair bill was "remitted" to his said remedy.

Will anybody presume to say that the Supreme Court remitted MOORE to a remedy under an unconstitutional law? Of course no one will hazard such an opinion. It is an impossibility—an unthinkable proposition. As well speak of a square triangle as to charge the highest court in the land with telling a suitor that he had an adequate remedy in an unconstitutional and invalid act of Assembly.

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BRIEF COMMENT.

"Turn the rascally advisers out!" exclaims the Philadelphia Times. Why, has not ARTHUR'S Cabinet been turned out?

A paragraph headed, "How to Test Good Butter," is going the rounds of the press. A very good way is to fool with a goat.

Would it not be a good idea to invite MIDDLTON to come across the border and settle our little difficulty with the Apaches?

The Philadelphia Press says: "The offensive partisan is not a modern product. No, he is coeval with the Republican party."

"In a few days the Dolphin will gallantly push her prow toward the rising sun." It is hoped that coal-luggers will take notice.

The telegraph informs us that "five Americans connected with the University of Tokio are to be decorated with the Rising Sun." We suppose they intend either to make a night of it or catch an early morning train.

The Macon Telegraph says: "The glass scale is one of the wonders of the age. You may smash him into ten thousand pieces, and he will put himself together like a Chinese puzzle and get to work again." Macon is not a prohibition city, and buys its whiskey in Kentucky.

NOTHING NEW.

Paul Boyton's Joke Anticipated Over One Man (Scientific American.)

Paul Boyton's recent prank in placing a dummy torpedo against the British war-ship *Garnet* in New York harbor brings to mind Sergeant Lee's attempt to blow up Lord Howe's flagship, the *Eagle*, in the same waters in 1776. He used a torpedo-boat invented by David Bushnell, afterward a captain in the patriotic army. It had been tried with success experimentally, and gave promise of being useful in serious warfare. The first opportunity for use occurred when the British fleet took possession of New York harbor. The Bushnell boat was more like a barrel than a boat. It was made of oak, iron-banded, and only large enough for one person. When floating upright the navigator's head was a little above the level of the water. By means of two force-pumps, worked by the occupant's feet, the vessel could be made to sink or rise in the water by forcing water out or in, and so changing its specific gravity. Its progress was governed by two revolving paddles in front, turned by a crank inside. The torpedo was fastened to the back of the boat by a screw, the release of which set in motion a clock connected with a gun-lock and flint. After the predetermined interval of time had elapsed the clock would strike and ignite the powder.

The torpedo carried by Lee against the *Eagle* was charged with 150 pounds of powder (some say 130 pounds), and the clock was set to explode the charge in thirty minutes after the torpedo was placed. Lee was towed to the neighborhood of the fleet by a party in whale-boats, and then proceeded to attack the fleet alone. He succeeded in reaching the *Eagle*, and fired a shot, but the shot, undetected, and spent a long time in a vain attempt to fasten the torpedo to her bottom with hooks and screws, a band of iron at the edge of the copper sheathing proving an especially serious obstacle. As daylight approached he was compelled to leave the fleet and return to the shore. Off Governor's Island he was intercepted by a British barge, when, to avoid capture, he exploded his torpedo, escaping from his pursuers during the panic which the explosion excited. If the torpedo had been provided with a strong magnet the strip of iron which thwarted him would have insured the success of his undertaking, and the use of torpedoes in naval warfare might have been hastened half a century.

MURDERED BY HIS FRIEND.

Two Miners Take a Half-Holiday—One Kills the Other in a Quarrel.

A Hamilton (Pa.) special says: Information was received here this morning of the murder of John Irvin upon shocking circumstances last night by John Laporte, at Warrior's Mark, this county. Yesterday afternoon the Shoemaker ore-mines, five miles distant from Tyrone, where Irvin and Laporte were employed as miners, were not in operation, and accordingly the men went to Warrior's Mark, a little village four miles away, for a half-day's excursion. While there they became intoxicated, and on leaving the village, just before dark, it is supposed they became involved in a quarrel. John Burkett, a mining teacher, who was passing by, found Irvin lying on the roadside with his throat cut from ear to ear and skull beaten in, evidently by a large club covered with blood, which lay beside him.

Laporte was immediately suspected of the murder, but was nowhere to be found. He is the son of Judge John Laporte, of Franklinville, an old and respected officer of the county. Irvin was the sole support of his widowed mother, and bears a good record, and no previous enmity is known to have existed between the two men, but, on the contrary, they were generally considered the closest of friends. Both were single men, about twenty-seven years of age. Laporte is regarded by his comrades as a very peculiar man—absent-minded and erratic. He has not been captured, but was seen last morning in the vicinity of Franklinville, before the crime was there known to have been committed.

Several theories are advanced relative to the motives influencing Laporte in the murder. It was not in operation, and accordingly the men went to Warrior's Mark, a little village four miles away, for a half-day's excursion. While there they became intoxicated, and on leaving the village, just before dark, it is supposed they became involved in a quarrel. John Burkett, a mining teacher, who was passing by, found Irvin lying on the roadside with his throat cut from ear to ear and skull beaten in, evidently by a large club covered with blood, which lay beside him.

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